

Washington, D.C - Today, leaders of the **New Democrat Coalition**, led by **Congressman Joseph Crowley (NY-7)**

and the

New Dem Trade Task Force Co-Chairs Congressmen Adam Smith (WA-9)

and

Jim Moran (VA-8)

, released the following statement in response to the Administration's announcement of a deal with Colombia to move forward with the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement:

"The New Democrats are very encouraged by the Obama Administration's announcement of an action plan that creates a clear path forward for the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. The United States' relationship with Colombia is a critically important one, and the implementation of a mutually beneficial trade agreement will further solidify our strategic relationship and provide new opportunities for American businesses and workers.

"The New Dems recently called on the Administration to work 'quickly and positively' to address the outstanding concerns with the Colombian FTA. Today's development is an important step in that direction.

"U.S. businesses and workers – from small family farms to large U.S. manufacturers – are currently paying tariffs to deliver and sell their goods in Colombia. It is time to put the finishing touches on this FTA, level the playing field and ensure the Colombian marketplace is open for American business.

"We must also make certain progress continues by President Santos and his Administration to ensure that the rights of workers are respected and upheld. The establishment of a plan of action for Colombia is a very positive step forward and will help to address these concerns.

"The New Democrats applaud the Administration's dedication to the ongoing negotiations with Colombia. We are committed to working closely together to enact this agreement, as well as the pending agreements with Korea and Panama, so we can provide American businesses, farmers, ranchers and service providers with a level playing field to successfully compete in the global marketplace."

Statement supported by New Democrat Trade Task Force Co-Chairs Representative Adam Smith (WA-09) and Representative Jim Moran (VA-8), and the New Dem Leadership Members, including Chair Representative Joseph Crowley (NY-07), and Vice-Chairs Representative Jim Himes (CT-4), Representative Ron Kind (WI-3), Representative Rick Larsen (WA-2), and Representative Allyson Schwartz (PA-13).

The New Democrat Coalition is a Coalition of 43 members of the U.S. House of Representatives who are dedicated to the prosperity and security of American families and business. Founded in 1997, the NDC provides Members of Congress with the opportunity to advance a common sense policy agenda focused on empowering the U.S. to grow economically and maintain a vibrant job market, preserving the U.S. standing as the world's leader in innovation and technological advancement, and strengthening our economic and national security. For more information, visit the New Dems website at <http://ndc.crowley.house.gov>

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Released 4/6/2011